

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5347

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PROP, HU, CZ, US

SUBJ: HUNGARIAN PRESS ON MAKING OF ANTI-RFE SPY

REF: BUDAPEST 536

1. HUNGARIAN NEWS MEDIK FINALLY MADE EFFORT TO CATCH UP WITH REST OF EE IN COVERAGE OF EX-RFE STAFFER PAVEL MINARIK. INSTEAD OF ATTACKING RFE OR U.S., ARTICLE WAS "CLASSIC" SPY STORY WITH "GOOD GUYS" COMING OUT ON TOP.

2. PARTY DAILY NEPSZABADSAG CARRIED ARTICLE BY ITS PRAGUE CORRESPONDENT FEB 24 GLORIFYING ACTIONS OF MICARIK. ARTICLE WENT INTO SOME DETAIL CONCERNING MINARIK'S ALLEGED RECRUITMENT BY RFE SEVEN YEARS AGO ON STRENGTH OF FAKE DOCUMENTS IN HIS POSSESSION.

3. NEPSZABADSAG REGALED READERS WITH DESCRIPTION OF MINARIK'S "DANGEROUS MISSION TO GET INFORMATION ON ENEMIES OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA" AND CLAIMED THAT "ARTISTIC DISGUISE OF HIS MNSSION HAS ATTRACTED GREAT ATTENTION".

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ARTICLE QUOTED MINARIK AS SAYING THAT HIS GREATEST

DIFFICULTY "WAS IN TOLERATING HIS COLLEAGUES AT RFE
STATION" SINCE THEY WERE COLLECTION OF
FORMER WAR
CRIMINALS, THOSE WHO TRAVELED FROM REVISION TO TREASON,
AND PROFESSIONAL CIA AGENTS". MINARIK ALLEGEDLY NOW
WANTS NOTHING MORE THAN TO DEDICATE HIMSELF TO IMPROVING
HIS TECHNICAL SKILLS.

4. HUNGARIAN MEDIA HAS TREATED RFE ANK BINARIK AFFAIR
IN LOW-KEY FASHION (SEE REFTTEL), AND NEPSZABADSAG
ARTICLE DOES NOT SIGNIFY CHANGE IN POLICY. IT APPEARS
TO BE EFFORT TO SHOW CLEVERNESS OF EASTERN INTELLIGENCE
SOURCES AND DEDICATION OF GOOD COMMUNISTS LIKE MINKARIK.
RFE IS CRITICIZED ONLY INDIRECTLY, AND U S. NOT AT ALL.
MCAULIFFE

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